

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJECT: WEST BANK PRESS REACTION: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. ALL THREE PAPERS REPORT SEPTEMBER 12 THAT CAMP DAVID TALKS HAVE REACHED "DECISIVE STAGE" WITH THE FAILURE OR SUCCESS OF TALKS BEING DETERMINED WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS. AL QUDS AND ASHA'B BOTH CARRY WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT JORDAN HAS "PARTICIPATED" IN THE CONFERENCE BY TELEPHONE. EDITORIALY, AL QUDS (MODERATE, PRO-JORDANIAN) PREDICTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MUST PRESENT THE "ANTICIPATED" AMERICAN IDEAS NOW AND ASKS "WILL THE AMERICAN IDEAS CONSTITUTE AN ACCEPTABLE AND WORKABLE BRIDGE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT?" PRO-PLO AL FAJR OUTLINES THE POSSIBLE RESULTS OF CAMP DAVID AND CONCLUDES THAT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE BECAUSE THE "FATE OF THE ARABS WILL NOT BE DECIDED AT CAMP DAVID, BUT RATHER UPON ARAB SOIL."

2. ALL PAPERS CARRY WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT CAMP DAVID
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SUMMIT HAS REACHED "DECISIVE STAGE" WITH ANTICIPATION THAT "AMERICAN IDEAS" WILL BE PRESENTED. AL QUDS REPORTS THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IS STUDYING "ISRAELI-AMERICAN" SUGGESTIONS PRESENTED BY CARTER EXTENDING THE CONFERENCE BEYOND ITS EXPECTED CONCLUSION ON WEDNESDAY. PALESTINIAN NATIONALIST ASHA'B BANNERS THAT "EXPECTATIONS WARN OF FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE." AL FAJR HEADLINES QUOTE JODY POWELL THAT "BASIC DIFFERENCES" STILL

EON "SOME" POINTS "EGYPTIAN SOURCES" REPORT "NO
REAL PROGRESS."

3. AL QUDS EDITORIAL "THE DECISIVE HOUR" SURMISES THAT ONE WEEK OF
TALKS "HAS NOT CHANGED ANYTHING." ISRAELI OPTIMISM IS, THE WRITER
BELIEVES, "A FABRICATED OPTIMISM...CONCEALING ISRAELI ADAMANCY AS
PREJUSTIFICATION FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE." THE PAPER CONCLUDES
"THE REAL AMERICAN ROLE STARTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DECISVIE HOUR.
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS NO MORE A MEDIATOR, BUT A FULL PARTNER; HE
WILL HAVE TO BEAR A DECISIVE SHARE FOR THE CONFERENCE'S SUCCESS OR
FAILURE... THE QUESTION IS WILL CARTER SUCCEED IN NARROWING
GAP OF DIFFERENCES... WILL AMERICAN IDEAS CONSTITUTE AN ACCEPTABLE
AND WORKABLE BRIDGE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT?"

4. AL FAJR, IN ITS EDITORIAL, SEES FOUR OPTIONS FOR THE OUTCOME
OF THE CONFERENCE: 1. "AN AMORPHOUS DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
BRINGING ABOUT A RESUMPTION OF TALKS...2. SADAT YIELDING TO AMERICAN
PRESSURE TO FREEZE NEGOTIATIONS..HOPING FOR CHANGES IN ISRAEL'S
LEADERSHIP; 3. SAUDI PRESSURES ON BOTH ASSAD AND SADAT FOR AN
ARAB SUMMIT...TO PREVENT SOME ARAB PARTIES FROM USING THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE WAR ON ISRAEL; AND 4. THAT THE U.S. WILL
NOT ALLOW THE RESUMPTION OF GENEVA." THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT "THE
FATE OF THE ARABS WILL NOT BE DECIDED AT CAMP DAVID BUT UPON
ARAB SOIL."
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